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Attorney's Docket No.: 10286-008001 / BWH #523 -
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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 29-33 are pending. Claim 34 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 have been amended. Claims 2, 29, 31 and 33 have been indicated as allowable.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the interview on December 18th. In view of the discussions with the Examiner, it is believed that the claims as amended obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Therefore, Applicants ask that the claims be allowed.

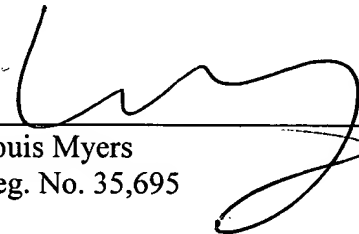
Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Enclosed is a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

21 Dec 01



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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claim 34 has been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising [a nucleotide sequence which has] an amino acid sequence having at least [85] 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7 [a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:6, or a complement thereof,] and which encodes a polypeptide having a von Willebrand domain having at least 90% sequence identity to the von Willebrand domain of SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:5, a factor C homologous domain having at least 90% sequence identity to the factor C homologous domain of SEQ ID NO:11, and having the ability to bind fibrillar collagen [at least on COCH5B2 activity].

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:6 or [a complement] natural allelic variants or complements thereof.

29. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 1000 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:6 or [a complement] complements thereof.

30. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about [85] 99% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7 [and having at least one COCH5B2 activity].

31. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7, wherein the fragment comprises at least 75 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7.

32. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7 [, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3 under stringent conditions, and wherein the polypeptide has at least one COCH5B2 activity].

33. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7.